

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00
EB-08 H-01 INR-10 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 SP-02 OC-06
CTME-00 SS-15 ICAE-00 USSS-00 SY-05 FAA-00
WRDE-00 MCT-02 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 SMS-01 PA-01
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Z O 301144Z AUG 78 ZFF-4

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN FLASH

SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 7573

AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 2053

CINCEUR FOR POLAD AND OPS

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, AEAGC-COC & AEAGB-PDN (I&W)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, WB, PL, GE

SUBJECT: HIJACKED POLISH AIRCRAFT LANDED AT TEMPELHOF, SITREP 1

REF: USBERLIN 2051 (NOTAL)

1. AS OF 1155 AM LOCAL TIME, AIRCRAFT, PASSENGERS, AND CREW
ARE IN TEMPELHOF AIRPORT. PASSENGERS ARE BEING PROVIDED
LUNCH AT AIRPORT CAFETERIA.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT FOUR PEOPLE MAY BE CONTEMPLATING ASKING
FOR ASYLUM. A FEW TRAVELERS APPARENTLY WERE BOUND FOR WEST
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BERLIN IN ANY EVENT, AND EXPECT TO LEAVE AIRPORT FOR THEIR
WEST BERLIN DESTINATIONS. CHIEF OF POLISH MILITARY MISSION
PENKALA IS AT AIRPORT NOW TALKING TO U.S. AUTHORITIES. HE
WISHES TO SPEAK TO PILOT AND PASSENGERS OF AIRCRAFT; WE
INTEND TO DELAY CONTACT WITH PILOT.

3. QUESTION OF WHEN TO RELEASE PILOTS AND PASSENGERS NOT RPT

NOT YET DECIDED. WE ARE CONSIDERING ALTERNATIVES OF BUSSING THOSE WHO SO WISH TO EAST BERLIN OR ASKING THEM TO REBOARD AIRCRAFT FOR FLIGHT TO SCHOENEFELD.

4. WE WILL BE RELEASING BASIC FACTS OF HIJACKING TO PRESS.

5. MAJORITY OF SIXTY-TWO PASSENGERS APPEAR TO BE EAST GERMANS. NO PRECISE INFORMATION ON OTHER NATIONALITIES AND NUMBERS AT THIS POINT.

6. THE BERLIN SENAT HAS COORDINATED THE FOLLOWING BRIEF STATEMENT WITH MISSION WHICH IT HAS RELEASED TO THE LOCAL PRESS: BEGIN QUOTE: THIS MORNING, SHORTLY AFTER 1000 AM, AN AIRCRAFT OF THE POLISH AIRLINE LOT LANDED AT TEMPELHOF AIRPORT. THE PLANE HAD BEEN ON A SCHEDULED FLIGHT FROM DANZIG TO SCHOENEFELD. THE LANDING AT TEMPELHOF REPORTEDLY WAS FORCED BY A HIJACKER. THE SENAT WAS IMMEDIATELY INFORMED OF THESE FACTS BY THE RESPONSIBLE US AUTHORITIES. THE US AUTHORITIES WILL DECIDE WHAT FURTHER MEASURES ARE TO BE TAKEN IN THIS CASE." END QUOTE. SENAT PRESS SPOKESMAN WILL REFER ALL FURTHER QUESTIONS TO US MISSION SPOKESMAN.

7. FOLLOWING ARE DETAILS ON HIJACKING:

HIJACKER IS AN EAST GERMAN WAITER. (HE HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY MARRIED TO A POLISH GIRL WHO NOW LIVES WITH THEIR CHILD IN WEST BERLIN.) HIJACKER HAS AN EAST GERMAN GIRLFRIEND WITH A CONFIDENTIAL

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CHILD. (BOTH WERE ON THE PLANE.) ON 2 AUGUST HIJACKER WENT TO POLAND ON VACATION. WHILE THERE HE NOTICED HOW EASY IT IS TO PURCHASE TOY PISTOLS ON THE OPEN MARKET. THIS FACT GAVE HIM THE IDEA TO PURCHASE SUCH A PISTOL AND TO ATTEMPT TO HIJACK AN AIRPLANE IN ORDER TO ESCAPE WITH HIS EAST GERMAN GIRLFRIEND AND THE CHILD SOMEHOW TO WEST BERLIN.

8. HIJACKER LEFT EAST BERLIN A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO FOR GDANSK (DANZIG), POLAND, TAKING HIS GIRLFRIEND AND THE CHILD WITH HIM. AT GDANSK HE PURCHASED TWO FLIGHT TICKETS FOR A TRIP TO SCHOENEFELD, EAST GERMANY, THIS MORNING AND LEFT LATER BY PLANE AS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED.

9. WHILE THE PLANE WAS ABOUT 15 MINUTES AWAY FROM SCHOENEFELD AIRPORT, HIJACKER TOOK THE TOY PISTOL FROM THE CHILD AND FORCED THE STEWARDESS TO REQUEST THE PILOT TO LAND AT EITHER TEGEL OR TEMPELHOF. FURTHERMORE, THE HIJACKER STATED THAT HE WOULD SHOOT THE STEWARDESS IN CASE THE PILOT FAILED TO COMPLY. THE PILOT COMPLIED WITH THE HIJACKER'S REQUESTS AND DECIDED TO LAND AT TEMPELHOF.

10. USCOB CONCURS. NELSON

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NNN

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